

(4) *Quality of the academic program.* (15 points) The Secretary reviews each application to determine the quality of the current academic program for each academic field within the project, including—

(i) The course offerings and academic requirements for the academic program; and

(ii) The focus on, and capability for, research or teaching.

(5) *Quality of key personnel.* (12 points)

(i) The Secretary reviews each application to determine the quality of key personnel the applicant plans to use on the project, including—

(A) The qualifications of the project director (2 points);

(B) The qualifications of the key faculty to be used for the project in each academic field (6 points);

(C) The time that each person referred to in paragraphs (b)(5)(i) (A) and (B) of this section will commit to the project (2 points); and

(D) How the applicant, as part of its nondiscriminatory employment practices, will ensure that its personnel are selected without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, or disabling condition, except pursuant to a lawful affirmative action plan (2 points).

(ii) To determine personnel qualifications under paragraphs (b)(5)(i) (A) and (B) of this section, the Secretary considers—

(A) Experience and training in areas related to the objectives of the project or the relevant academic field within the project; and

(B) Any other qualifications that pertain to the quality of the project.

(6) *Adequacy of resources.* (5 points) The Secretary reviews each application to determine the adequacy of the resources the applicant plans to devote to the project, with respect to each academic field, including facilities, equipment, and supplies.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 1840-0509)

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1134e)

**§ 649.22 How does the Secretary establish priorities?**

(a)(1) The Secretary gives an absolute preference to applicants proposing to provide fellowships in the award of

which priority is given to women or individuals from minority groups, or both, who are pursuing master's level or professional study and are underrepresented in the academic field for which the grant award is made.

(2) The Secretary announces the absolute preference annually in the FEDERAL REGISTER notice inviting applications for new awards under this program.

(b)(1) The Secretary gives a competitive preference of one point to applicants proposing to provide fellowships in the award of which priority is given to women or individuals from minority groups, or both, who are pursuing master's level study leading to careers that serve the public interest.

(2) This point is in addition to any points the applicant earns under the selection criteria for the program.

(c)(1) The Secretary gives an absolute preference to applicants proposing to provide fellowships in academic career fields of high national priority as established by the Secretary from among one or more of the academic areas listed in the appendix to this part or the resulting subdisciplinary or interdisciplinary academic areas.

(2) The Secretary announces the absolute preference annually in the FEDERAL REGISTER notice inviting applications for new awards under this program.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1134d, 1134e)

**Subpart D—How Does the Secretary Make a Grant for Doctoral Study Fellowships?**

**§ 649.30 How does the Secretary evaluate an application?**

(a) The Secretary evaluates an application for doctoral study fellowships on the basis of the criteria in § 649.31.

(b) The Secretary awards up to 100 points for these criteria.

(c) The maximum possible score for each criterion is indicated in parentheses.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1134e)

**§ 649.31 What selection criteria does the Secretary use?**

The Secretary uses the following criteria to evaluate an application: